concern is that if the question is admitted, if I am required to answer, I shall certainly come prepared and answer. If I have not come prepared, I will not like to answer people like Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the basis of lack of preparation. That will not be fair to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The only thing is that they say it is not with me here that they got that the other Ministry was willing to agree to take it. But, then a slip could have been added.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Hill area development programme

*481. SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for the Hill Area Development Programme and the issues relating to the identification of hill areas on scientific lines and formulation of an appropriate economy policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the States were asked to furnish certain information regarding population, mandalwise and maps of districts, blocks, etc.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this information has since been furnished by Andhra Pradesh and other States to the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, by when the final outcome would be released by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The Hill Area Development Programme in its present form, is already in operation since 1974-75. The programme covers the hill areas of the Himalayan and the Western Ghats Regions. The approach, strategy and plan priorities for development of hill areas have been set out in the Chapter-16 of the Seventh Plan Document. The issues relating to the identification of hill areas on scientific lines were examined by an Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission on 20th May, 1986.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Expert Group has since submitted its Report, which is being processed.

Tightening of control over immigrants to Britain

*485. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA *Will the Minister of* EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of U.K. are contemplating to tighten the controls for prospective immigrants to the U.K.; and

(b) if so, the effect of these controls on the people going to the United Kingdom from the Indian Sub-continent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The U. K authorities have recently amended the provisions of the British Immigration Act, 1971. Hitherto Commonwealth citizens settled in the U.K. on 1st January 1973 enjoyed an absolute right to bring in to the U.K. their spouses/dependents without having to comply with the "primary purpose rule" of the Immigration Act The amendment has taken away this right. Secondly, the requirement that the prospective spouse/dependent will have financial means and accommodation in the U.K. will be rigorously enforced.

U.K. immigration procedures are already strict and difficult. The new amendments would make it more difficult for Indian spouses/dependents to join their relations in the U.K. which may result in the splitting of several families.